

Message Text

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15

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 TRSE-00

OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /154 W
----- 073559

R 310720 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 281

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9435

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL JEC FRANCE

US MISSION GENEVA 1192

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID ICFTU VN VS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ICFTU REP TO VIETNAM

REFERENCE: EC BRUSSELS 1257

1. TOM BARRY- BRAUNTHAL DEPARTED SAIGON 29 MARCH FOLLOWING BUSY WEEK DURING WHICH HE TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT COUNTRY-SIDE ACCOMPANIED BY VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION LABOR (CVT) REP AND AT TIME BY ASIAN- AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE (AAFLI) AMERICAN STAFF.

2. SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL BARRY- BRAUNTHAL MET WITH EMBASSY/ USAID LABOR OFFICERS, DESCRIBED HIS MISSION, AND ASKED MANY PERTINENT QUESTIONS. HE ALSO CANDIDLY DISCUSSED DESIRE ICFTU OBTAIN CVT AFFILIATION.

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3. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, BARRY- BRAUNTHAL HAD EXIT INTERVIEW WITH USAID/ LABOR STAFF, REQUESTING INFO RE GENERAL ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, ETC. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HE STATED:

A. MUCH IMPRESSED WITH SUCCESS GVN LAND REFORM PROGRAM WHERE MORE THAN ONE MILLION HECTORES LAND DISTRIBUTED TENANT FARMERS.

B. SITUATION IN VIETNAM MUCH BETTER THAN HE ANTICIPATED. VIETNAMESE WITH WHOM HE MET CONFIDENT ARMY REPUBLIC VIETNAM (ARVN) ABILITY STAND OFF ANY ATTACKS BY ENEMY.

C. SOME VIETNAMESE VOICED PROBABILITY COMMUNIST INFILTRATION UNIONS BUT ANTICIPATED FEW PROBLEMS NEUTRALIZING THEM.

D. HE FOUND NO EVIDENCE GVN INTERFERENCE TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES.

E. INDICATED HIS RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PRIMARILY IN ASSISTING CVT EXPAND MEMBERSHIP AND PROBABILITY SOME ITS' MIGHT JOIN ICFTU THIS EFFORT. COMMENT: DESPITE FACT BARRY- BRAUNTHAL NEVER RAISED SUBJECT WITH USAID, AAFLI REPS OF OPINION HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE FOR ASSISTANCE IN RELIEF AND REHABILITATION, AN AREA IN WHICH THEY REPORTED TO HIM AFL - CIO HAD LITTLE CURRENT INTEREST. END COMMENT.

4. IN OPINION U. S. LABOR COMMUNITY, VISIT WENT WELL. CVT EXTENDED CORDIAL RECEPTION AND DETAILED SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS TO ALLOW HIM SEE WHAT AND WHOMEVER HE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO SEE. WHETHER OR NOT CVT AFFILIATION ICFTU IN OFFING NEAR FUTURE UNCLEAR SINCE COURTESIES EXTENDED BARRY- BRAUNTHAL BY CVT PRECISELY THOSE EXTENDED OTHER FOREIGN UNION VISITORS IN PAST.

DECON 3/30/74
BENNETT

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